1	2	3
9.	Strengthening the legal regime	The department feels that the existing Legal Regime is sufficient.
10.	To increase public awareness about TPDS Scheme	The department is giving due publicity by organizing street plays and through Periodic advertisements in the leading newspapers.
11.	To increase *via*bility of FPSs	Department has allowed FPS holders to sell 14 consumer usable items in addition to the PDS items.
12.	Putting up banners at prominent places on trucks carrying PDS commodities	The trucks carrying food articles are fitted with boards prominently displaying "ON PDS DUTY" FPS holders are provided display Notice Boards of uniform size.
13.	Implement Model Citizen Charter dated 30th July, 2007	The citizen's charter is being followed.
14.	Amnesty scheme to surrender bogus ration cards	The scheme was launched in the department. However, it was noticed that there was no response from the public.
15.	Repeal of Section 15A of the EC Act, 1955	The Government of NCT of Delhi does not agree with this suggestion.

Import of pulses

†3705. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:
SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has imported pulses from abroad;

(b) if so, the names of the countries from where the pulses have been imported and their quantity;

(c) the reasons for non-reduction of prices of pulses in wholesale and retail markets despite the import of pulses from abroad; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to check the efforts of black marketeers and hoarders to hike the prices artificially and further action to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No Sir. Government has permitted import

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of pulses by private importers and Public Sector Undertakings at zero duty. Government has also permitted PSUs to import pulses with a reimbursement of their losses if any, to the extent of up to 15% of landed cost and 1.2% of service charge of CIF value in these operations.

(b) The details of countries from where the pulses have been imported by PSUs and private importers along with the quantity are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Domestic prices of pulses have risen mainly on account of a supply demand mismatch. As per 4th Advance Estimates, the domestic production of pulses has declined to 14.66 million tonnes during 2008-09 as compared to 14.76 million tonnes during 2007-08 (Final Estimates). In addition hardening of international prices affected imports of pulses and total domestic availability.

(d) Powers have been vested with State Governments for taking action under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Prevention of Black marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. To enable the State Governments/ UT Administrations to continue to take effective action for undertaking de-hoarding operations under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, it was decided to enable State Governments to impose restrictions like licensing and stockholding limits by keeping in abeyance some provisions of the Central Order dated 15.02.2002 in respect of certain essential commodities such as pulses. The validity of the Central Orders dated 02.04.2009 is extended upto 30.09.2009.

As per information available 14 State Governments have imposed stock holding limits on different commodities and 4 State Governments have imposed restrictions like licensing/stock declaration for the essential commodities.

Statement

The details of import of Pulses during 2007-08 and 2008-09 (Apr.-Feb.) and Countries of Import alongwith the quantity

(Qty. in tonnes)

Countries	2007-08	Apr. 08-Feb. 09
1	2	3
Australia	148841	162837
Canada	1495239	889146
China p Rp	24117	32481
France	93717	58874
Iran	501	132
Malawi	30649	7219
Myanmar	724478	724778
Nepal	4108	3331
Pakistan Ir	275	-

1	2	3
Russia	16518	20065
Tanzania Rep.	92354	68427
Turkey	1763	462
Ukraine	26972	36727
Uzbekistan	427	751
USA	230604	115459
Others	61472	21775
TOTAL	2952035	2142464

100 days programme

3706. SHRI SABIR ALI:
SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the 100 days programme of the Ministry;

(b) what other programmes would be taken up after 100 days period; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure full utilization of current year's budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) This Ministry has not drawn up any specific programme for implementation of the 100 days programme.

However, the programmes which are being taken up for implementation by this Ministry include making available foodgrains/sugar/edible oil etc. to public, particularly for people below poverty line and also include creation of additional storage capacity, financial assistance to States/UTs for curbing leakage/diversion of foodgrains meant for public distribution system and capacity building of PDS officials, setting up of Village Grain Banks etc.

Besides, consultations with the related Central Ministries and State Governments are also underway in respect of the proposed National Food Security Act.

(c) Appropriate monitoring mechanism has been put in place to monitor the implementation of these programmes through monitoring and quarterly expenditure plan which would ensure full utilization of budget.

Procurement of wheat by FCI in Punjab and Haryana

3707. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: